

DOUBLE AIM IN MISSION OF VON BUELOW

First to Prevent Intervention
by Italy, but if That Fails
to Propose Peace.

WAR ON AUSTRIA THOUGHT A CERTAINTY

Special Correspondence to THE SUN.
Rome, Dec. 19.—There seems to be no doubt that Prince von Buelow has been sent to Rome on a special mission. Officially he came here to replace for three months the regular German Ambassador, Herr von Plowitz, whose absence since the outbreak of the war impaired his health and rendered necessary a three months rest cure at Naples.

In ordinary circumstances von Plowitz's absence, which consisted in finishing newspapers on the verge of bankruptcy and starting new agencies, exclusively pro-German, would not have interfered with his health. But he has really needed three months rest. He has taken charge of the embassy as *Charge d'Affaires*. Even admitting that it was necessary to send another diplomatist from Berlin to assume charge of the embassy, there are at least three Ambassadors out of a job, those accredited to London, Paris and Petrograd, to select from. Instead, Prince von Buelow, ex-Chancellor of the Empire, who had retired from public life and whose rank is far superior to that of Ambassador, was sent to Rome just as a temporary substitute.

The choice was significant. As German Ambassador in Rome long ago, the Ambassador of the Italian Government was taken for granted and was asked for nothing as a mere formality. The special mission of the Ambassador, as Prince von Buelow is already known in Rome, was likewise guessed without much difficulty.

There is only one thing Germany wants very badly from Italy, viz., neutrality. Hence it is assumed that the Prince came here in order to prevent Italy's intervention in the war.

The Triple Alliance has ceased to exist. It failed when it was most needed, and Germany not only recognized Italian neutrality but is now striving to prolong it.

How to Italy's Aims.

There is a possibility, however slight, that Italy may remain neutral throughout the war, and this possibility may be increased by Prince von Buelow. If Italy does not intervene and the war is won by Germany and Austria it is held to be certain that Italy's "just aspirations" will not be realized and the *Tedesco* and *Tricolore* will be irretrievably lost. Italy will then perhaps gain Germany's and Austria's doubtful gratitude, but will have England, France and Russia against her. The country will suffer from the effects of a war which with every sacrifice, financial and otherwise, she was prepared to undertake without receiving any benefit.

Human lives will have been spared, but revolt might have to be repressed with bloodshed if Italy comes out of the war empty handed. Every one in Italy is convinced that intervention is inevitable and that it is impossible for Italy to keep out of the war. Had the possibility of remaining neutral been greater the Government would not have risked spending so much money on war preparations.

Since the possibility of Italy remaining neutral throughout the war is so small and that of her intervention is so great it is difficult to conceive why Prince von Buelow was sent to Rome on an arduous task, which he aptly compared to stone breaking.

It is suspected the Prince has another and more important mission. This mission is secret and possibly it will never be divulged.

Even admitting, as all Germans and many pro-Germans do so far, despite the fact that the Kaiser has not yet had luncheon in Paris, that Germany has still a great chance of winning; that the Allies have not occupied German territory; that England has failed to prove her sea power, and that with the help of Austria and Turkey Germany will yet win this great war, all this optimism disappears as soon as Italy intervenes. Italy's intervention, simultaneous with or immediately followed by Rumania's intervention, will bring about Germany's complete defeat in a comparatively short time. The Italian intervention will prove catastrophic for Germany is denied by none.

For many years past the Italian army and navy have been underestimated. The gallantry of Italian soldiers in Tripoli and the value of the naval operations during the Italo-Turkish war have not been taken into great account, and the mistaken impression continues to prevail that Italy's military and naval power is not worth much. Italians themselves have the habit of running down their own country. The army and navy have been openly criticized at home very often and thus foreign prejudices have been almost confirmed. As a matter of fact, however, Italy at present has one of the best armies in Europe, while her navy is highly efficient.

While all the great Powers of Europe have been at war Italy has been steadily and carefully preparing for war regardless of expense. For the last four months the Italian navy has been completely mobilized and class after class of reservists has been summoned to the colors for periods of intensified training and then sent home to await mobilization. Although during this period of neutrality Italy apparently prepared for war only to defend her interests, every soldier and every officer knows that when the war comes it will be against Austria. The preparations for war have been exclusively directed against Austria. The entire fleet has been concentrated, since last July in the Adriatic and nearly all the extra troops called to arms have been based on the northern frontier.

The Italian General Staff has been working day and night preparing for war against Austria. Staff officers disguised as unskilled workers lost among the thousands of Italian emigrants in every large capital of the world have been patiently working for the Intelligence Department. There are many of these officers in Austria, and the position and color and range of every gun on the western frontier are as familiar to the Italian as to the Austrian War Office. Among the Italian smugglers who cross the Italo-Austrian frontier at night with loads of flour and rice some are officers, experts in topography, and every short cut on the mountains and every road not within the range of the guns from the Austrian forts has long ago been mapped. The position of the submarine mines in the Adriatic, the mine fields protecting the semaphores and signal stations on the islands are not secrets for the Italian staff.

Italy has profited by the experience of the war. There are intelligent military and naval attaches in the capitals of the belligerent Powers, and their work is extremely valuable. Four months of war preparations while the greatest war in

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8,000,000 WOMEN ENLIST FOR RELIEF

Helpers of Belgian Sufferers
Form Committees in Twenty-nine States.

ACT TO AID JEWS IN WAR

The woman's section of the Commission for Relief in Belgium has thus far organized committees in twenty-nine States, representing about 8,000,000 women who are gathering food and clothing for the war sufferers to fill the State ships to be sent to the war zone. Mrs. Lindon W. Bates, chairman of the section, got a telegram yesterday from Ohio, the latest State organized, telling that a carload of food, the State's first contribution, was being shipped.

The American Jewish Relief Committee, which has been receiving reports of the plight of 7,000,000 Jews in Russia, Poland and Galicia, announces a series of public meetings to lay bare the appalling situation of these unfortunates. The first of these meetings will be held next Wednesday evening at the Temple Emanuel-EI.

With the reports of the sufferings of the Jews were sent tales of alleged atrocities by Russians in various parts of the war zone.

The American Jewish Relief Committee announced yesterday additional contributions amounting to \$6,871.14. The total up to and including January 4 was \$229,161.67.

Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney has offered more than \$1,000 in a prize art competition to help the fund for the relief of the families of artists and others in France.

The Belgian Relief Fund announced yesterday additional contributions of \$2,215.90, making a total to date of \$788,956.27.

Jacob H. Schiff, treasurer of the New York State Board of the American Red Cross, made public yesterday the day's contributions, totalling \$1,558.28, and increased the fund to \$438,952.22.

Announcement was made from Orange, N. J., that Mrs. Thomas A. Edison had been chosen honorary chairman of the Orange branch of the Essex County Chapter of the Red Cross Relief Committee. The committee will use the rooms of the Orange Board of Trade to make garments for those made needy by the war.

Mrs. Francis Mearns Wilson, wife of Vice-Commodore Wilson of the Larchmont Yacht Club and of the Barber Line, who returned from Europe recently, made an appeal yesterday for donations of medicines, knitted goods, reading matter, etc., to be sent to the soldiers serving with Lord Reginald Arthur de Freyne in France. Mrs. Wilson is a cousin of Lord de Freyne, who is a cousin of Gen. French.

The Barber Line will ship such contributions free if sent to the company's dock, Pier 26-27, Atlantic Basin, Brooklyn. Clothing may be sent in the same way to the Belgian Relief Fund and addressed care of Miss Doris Chambers, Chambers Steamship Company, Liverpool.

The President society folk of the south shore of Long Island gave a concert for the war sufferers yesterday at the Far Rockaway Lyceum. Upward of 2,500 persons attended.

COPPER IMPORTS EXPLAINED.

Sweden Gives Reason for Increase in 1914.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—The Swedish Legation has issued a statement showing that copper imports for 1914 increased 2,793,374 kilograms, of which 1,225,040 was imported before the war began, and to the remainder it is explained that it was necessary, since Sweden, like all neutrals, is increasing her own army stores and also has needed more because of the growth of domestic manufacture due to the war and the electrification of railroads which is now in progress.

Considerable annual importations of copper from Germany stopped at the opening of the war," the statement says, "and there was no other place to obtain the necessary except in America."

BEELMAN RELIEF SHIP ASHORE.

Part of the John Hardie's \$100,000 Cargo May Be Unloaded.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 9.—The Maryland Relief ship, the John Hardie, with a cargo valued at \$100,000, is ashore at the mouth of the Back River, according to a wireless despatch received here tonight.

The wrecking tug J. J. Merritt, sent out to aid the stricken ship, reported tonight that it may be necessary to unload a portion of the cargo before the vessel can be floated again.

Belgian King Receives M. Barthou.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Jan. 9.—M. Barthou, former Premier, and Mme. Barthou were received by King Albert of the Belgians at Fumes this week.

EXPLAINS GERMAN COURSE IN BELGIUM

A. E. Henschel Says It Is Like
Crossing Neighbor's Roof
to Escape Fire.

HE ALSO DEFINES CULTURE

Albert E. Henschel, a member of the New York bar and president of the Conference to Promote the Commerce of the Port and State of New York, is author of a pamphlet entitled "War Hypocrisy Unveiled," in which he defends the course of Germany in the present conflict, calls Germany's entrance into Belgium justifiable, deprecates the idea that Germany would similarly enter the United States for an invasion of Canada, declares that England is violating and has in the past repeatedly violated the moral and international law, defends German militarism and attacks British naval militarism.

In reply to the suggestion that Germany might invade this country to attack Canada Mr. Henschel says:

"In place of this most unfair analogy let us suppose that your house was afire with the only means of escape over your neighbor's roof. Would you daily over the question of the 'neutrality' of your neighbor's house—considering that his home is his castle?—or would you simply go over his roof and save yourself and your family?"

"But what did the Germans do? Did they rush better shelter into Belgium without so much as saying: 'By your leave'?"

Says Belgium Invited War.

"No. To the honor and dignity of human nature be it said that in that time of imminent peril they did what no other nation has ever done—they delayed sufficiently, when every moment was precious—to ask permission of Belgium and to give assurance that her integrity and independence would be protected and reparation made for all losses. The future historian will refer to this act of Germany as a manifestation of a most sublime sense of justice, original and unique in the annals of the world."

"When this offer was refused Germany did what any other European nation would have done in the first place. She went into Belgium to save herself from destruction."

"There is no doubt that Belgium had the right to refuse permission and to resist invasion. But, when she made her choice, which involved war with Germany, she cannot complain of the war thus invited."

Mr. Henschel then goes on to treat

of Great Britain's "violation of international law" in her treatment of Egypt in 1882 and dwells on the resignation of Mr. Bright from his seat in the British Cabinet because of that incident. Comparing this action with Germany's treatment of Belgium, Mr. Henschel says: "A nation that, through her Government, has been guilty of such notorious violation of neutrality should not be taken too seriously when she appoints herself as Guardian-in-Chief of Public Rights and Interpreter-General of International Law."

Defines "German Culture."

The author next speaks of "a great mysterious fear" that has been aroused "that the Germans are going to impose their culture on other people." He explains that "what is called German culture is merely the synthesis of all that can be and ought to be known and done within the limits of present civilization."

Speaking of various great "German leaders of liberty," including Kant, von Humboldt, Herder, Goethe and Schiller, he comments:

"Against the titanic and all pervading influence of such heroic moulders of German character and thought the writings of Treitschke and Bernhard are but feeble and ephemeral manifestations—not at all representative of that sturdy, peace loving people."

Mr. Henschel declares that German militarism is nothing as compared to French militarism as manifested in the trial of Dreyfus and says that all the "false charges" made against Germany have not made the country uninviting to a large permanent colony of Americans nor to a vast stream of American travelers.

"And it cannot honestly be said," he continues, "that Germany has used her military strength for any but defensive purposes. Nothing stands out against the home is his castle?—or would you simply go over his roof and save yourself and your family?"

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Reminds Stenben's Aid.

He reminds his readers that without the military aid of Baron Stenben, "made in Germany," and the land and naval militarism of France it is doubtful if the American colonies would have attained their independence."

He quotes Bismarck to show that peace intentions lie at the basis of German civilization and the Kaiser to show that the present Government maintained these ideals. He also quotes further from the Yellow Book to prove that England did not care about the neutrality of Belgium, made that a pretext and was already decided upon entering the war.

"It is to be noted that took chief interest in Belgian neutrality," he says, "giving as a reason that Britain wanted no great nation to possess Antwerp, the port which dyaled her own in commerce and wealth."

Mr. Henschel takes up the theory and practice of neutralization and justifies Germany's action thereby, saying the treaty of 1839 had lost moral validity.

Treaties Not Perpetual.

No one really believes there can be such a thing as a perpetual treaty," he

says. "There is nothing perpetual in mundane affairs except change."

He adds that the treatment of Belgium was guaranteed under the law of self-preservation, that the German Chancellor made the plea in time, on August 4, and says that he believes the German General Staff would have been guilty of treason to have respected a contract in such circumstances. He adds:

"A point of minor importance, but still worthy of consideration, is that the occupation of Belgium was necessary to furnish an extended basis for the deployment of the unprecedented number of troops that would be engaged. Germany also required the Belgian railroads as a means of transit into France and as a general base of operations."

After asserting that the British Government made the war and that the British people did not want it Mr. Henschel pays a tribute to the German people and likens their struggle to that made by this country to preserve the Union.

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LONDON, Jan. 9.—The increase in the cost of food and other necessities of life in Great Britain is receiving much attention from the London press. In many cases the prices of necessities have increased by from 20 to 50 per cent. since the beginning of the war. Meats have increased 15 per cent., flour has increased from 25 shillings (\$6.25) to 45 shillings (\$11.25), fish has trebled in price and coal has increased 10 per cent.

The newspapers point out that the middle classes in particular are feeling the stress on account of the lessening of incomes. The working classes, except in certain trades, are well employed. The papers urge that economy be practised in the use of foodstuffs.

"The war should teach us," the *Daily Telegraph* says, "that comfort depends largely on the prevention of waste. We shall do well to review the internal economy of our homes wherever possible, as this war will increase the cost of living throughout the world, in neutral as well as belligerent countries."

The *Daily Chronicle* says: "Despite the increases, bread and many other articles are cheaper in England than in any other country in the world. Therefore we cannot expect amelioration of the increased cost of living. It is now a matter of fact that the high shipping rates, which have quadrupled in five months."

The *Morning Post* suggested a few days ago the possibility of limitation of shipping rates by the Government. It now says that such intervention by the Government is impossible except with the gravest results.

CARDINAL'S ARREST DENIED AT VATICAN

"Exchange of Remarks" Between Mgr. Mercier and German Governor Alone Admitted.

INTERROGATED, IS REPORT

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 9.—The *Roosendaal* correspondent of the *Tyd* telegraphs that a concise summary of the interrogatories put by the German Governor-General to Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of Malines, has been despatched to Berlin. Pending a reply the Cardinal has been forbidden to quit Malines.

The correspondent says it is still uncertain whether or not the Cardinal is confined to the palace, and also whether he has been compelled to submit to an interrogation.

The Home correspondent of the *Temps* says great reserve is shown at the Vatican about the whole incident, but it is officially denied that Cardinal Mercier has either been arrested or confined to the Archbishop's Palace. It is admitted that there was an exchange of remarks between Cardinal Mercier and the German authorities on the subject of the former's pastoral letter, and all of Thursday and Friday there was a constant coming and going between the Vatican and the legations of Prussia and Bavaria.

The correspondent says it is probable that Cardinal Mercier was detained and condemned to silence for some hours while a messenger with the official documents was passing between Brussels and Berlin. The Vatican officials express the hope that the incident will be settled in a diplomatic manner.

The Cologne correspondent of the *Tyd* telegraphs that the censor has taken strict measures to prevent the publication of Cardinal Mercier's pastoral letter or extracts from it in German newspapers. On the whole, the correspondent says, German Catholics are somewhat embarrassed by the incidents at Malines but in the Berlin *Zeitungliche Rundschau* Count Honsbruck, a former Jesuit, writes an article with the object of showing that Cardinal Mercier fully deserved the measures taken against him.

TRIED TO CALM BELGIANS.

Cardinal Mercier Gave Assurances, Says German Statement.

BERLIN, Jan. 9 (via wireless through Sarville, L. I.).—In an official statement issued tonight it is announced that Cardinal Mercier gave the Governor-General of Belgium both written and verbal assurances that he intended in a pastoral letter to calm the populace of Belgium and to exhort them without hurting their patriotic feelings to submit to the German authorities.

The Cardinal agreed that his recent pastoral letter should not be circulated.



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